

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF:JBLAKE/AF/E:RSBARRETT:SEH

APPROVED BY AF:TSEELYE

S/S: FVORTIZ

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104378 TOSEC 110433

EXDIS FOR SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, ET, US

SUBJECT: IMPENDING PMG MOVES IN ERITREA

1) YOU MAY HAVE SEEN REPORTS FROM ADDIS INDICATING THAT IMPORTANT PMG MILITARY AND PARA-MILITARY MOVES IN ERITREA MAY BE IMMINENT. THESE INCLUDE USE OF MILITIA AND SETTLEMENT OF ARMED NON-ERITREAN CIVILIANS ON ERITREAN LAND. ALL FOREIGN MISSIONARIES AND RELIGIOUS TEACHERS IN ERITREAN COUNTRYSIDE HAVE BEEN GATHERED IN ASMARA AND THERE ARE REPORTS ALL FOREIGNERS WILL BE EVICTED FROM PROVINCE SO AS TO HAVE NO WITNESSES.

2) YOU MAY WISH TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS IN NAIROBI WITH AMBASSADOR HUMMEL TO DISCUSS THESE IMPENDING DEVELOPMENTS WHICH WOULD APPEAR TO INDICATE THAT PMG HAS WRITTEN OFF POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATED POLITICAL SOLUTION TO ERITREAN PROBLEM AND HAS OPTED INSTEAD FOR MILITARY ACTION. REPORTS ALSO IMPLY EPMG HAS MADE DECISION TO EFFECT MAJOR CHANGE IN ETHNIC AND CULTURAL

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CHARACTER OF ERITREA THROUGH WHOLESAL DISPLACEMENT OF

ERITREAN POPULATION, BY FORCE IF NECESSARY. IF SUCH IS
CASE, WE CAN FORESEE DEVELOPMENT OF SERIOUS ERITREAN

REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN PROBLEMS, AND POSSIBLY RENEWED
CRITICISM IN PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL CIRCLES OF USG AID

TO ADDIS REGIME. FOR THESE REASONS IMPLICATIONS OF
IMPENDING EPMG ACTIONS WOULD APPEAR TO BE WORTH EXPLORING
WITH AMBASSADOR HUMMEL. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PARAMILITARY FORCES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE104378
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JJB LAKE/AF/E:RS BARRETT:SEH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760165-0657
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976042/aaaaaaxt.tel
Line Count: 70
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPENDING PMG MOVES IN ERITREA 1) YOU MAY HAVE SEEN REPORTS FROM ADDIS INDICATING THAT
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, ET, US
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006